

ducks. They were shot at without mercy, decency or common sense, and although it was tails up at the flash of a gun they were eventually tired down and killed off. The only redeeming feature to the slaughter, if there could be one, was that the Mexicans and Indians used them for food. I estimated one bunch to be 30 feet in diameter, and there were numerous small bunches scattered up the river for at least a quarter of a mile. Since that time I have not seen a half dozen on the river. They can, however, be met with at any time during the year at a laguna of brackish water about fourteen miles above here, where they probably nest. I hope to be able to determine that this spring. The Western Grebes, in limited numbers, are also permanent residents of the laguna. A few occasionally straggle lower down, but not often.

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#### NOTES CONCERNING CERTAIN BIRDS OF LONG ISLAND, N. Y.

BY WILLIAM C. BRAISLIN, M. D.

THE following data for the most part relate to recent occurrences of species more or less rare or uncommon on Long Island. One species or hybrid (*Helminthophila lawrencei*) is here for the first time recorded from Long Island. The note concerning another species (*Larus minutus*) has to do with the occurrence of this bird in North America, as well as on Long Island, for the second time.

***Fratercula arctica.*** A specimen of the Puffin was sent me from Montauk by Mr. Arthur Miller, with a request that it might be identified and its name furnished. The sender stated that but for its poor state of plumage, he should have kept the bird for mounting, as it was to him an ornithological curiosity. It was found on the beach, March 30, 1902. The state of plumage which rendered it an imperfect specimen for mounting rather added to its interest as a 'skin,' since it was due to moult. Its

flight feathers are lacking, the new quills, although sprouting, being as yet rudimentary and entirely incapable of supporting it in the air. The feathers of the breast are largely wanting, leaving the skin well protected, however, by the abundant dark-colored down. Its comparatively helpless condition was doubtless responsible for its having been driven ashore, where it perished in the surf.

**Uria lomvia.** Brunnich's Murres occurred on the Long Island coast during the winter of 1901-02. Four were obtained from various localities. On Dec. 6, 1901, a female was killed at Sag Harbor on a fresh-water pond. It came into the possession of Mr. Ivan C. Byram a taxidermist of that village, who sent it to me in the flesh. Mr. Robt. R. Peavey of Brooklyn shot one at Rockaway Beach on Dec. 26, and kindly presented it to me. A member of the crew of the Amagansett Life-saving Station, George H. Mulford, found one on the beach, dead, at that place Dec. 30, 1901, and another on March 2, 1902. The last is rather remarkable as a Long Island specimen of the species, in that the feather coloration approaches nearly, if not quite, the full nuptial plumage. The feathers of the chin, sides of the throat and neck are of the dark, sooty color seen in adults collected at their breeding stations. No other skin which I have seen from Long Island has the dark coloring so much developed. This may be attributed to the date of occurrence, which is a late one for the species in this latitude. The bill of this bird is larger than our usual specimens, its depth, in fact, somewhat exceeding the limit for *U. lomvia* as indicated in Chapman's 'Birds of Eastern North America.'

**Alca torda.** An immature Razor-billed Auk was sent me by Capt. James G. Scott, keeper of the Montauk Point Light, on Nov. 14, 1901. In regard to it he wrote: "The bird I sent you was brought to me by a fisherman, and I think he found it on the beach, for I have found them dead on the beach."

**Alle alle.** Two little Auks were found by the same member of the Amagansett Life-saving crew referred to above, while patrolling the beach on the evening of December 14, 1901. He wrote me that he had so obtained them and added: "The sea was running very high and I suppose that they were washed in on the beach."

**Larus minutus.** The occurrence of the Little Gull in North America was regarded with doubt by ornithologists, owing to the absence of any satisfactory evidence, until the absolute record in this journal by Mr. William Dutcher, concerning its occurrence at Fire Island, Long Island, New York, in September 1887 (Auk, Vol. V, 1888, p. 171). After a comparatively short interval the bird has been again taken on Long Island and the record of its occurrence here constitutes the second instance for North America. Mr. Robt. L. Peavey of Brooklyn was fortunate in securing this specimen of *Larus minutus*, which was in company with a flock of Bonaparte's Gulls, some of which were also secured, at Rockaway Beach, May 10, 1902. This rare specimen Mr. Peavey has generously donated to the Museum of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences. The plumage is that of the immature bird, just taking on that of the adult. Evidences of the latter are present on the forehead and at the base of the upper mandible which parts are nearly completely clothed in new, black feathers; on the chin at either side a few new, black feathers appear, as also over the eyes and a very few on the crown. Sex, ♀ (determined by Mr. George K. Cherrie, Curator of the Department). Culmen, 90 in.; wing, 8.20 in.

**Anser albifrons gambeli.** At Sag Harbor I recently had the opportunity of examining the collection of mounted birds of Mr. I. C. Byram, a taxidermist residing there. Among other birds of interest was a fine specimen of the White-fronted Goose. Concerning it he subsequently wrote as follows: "I have looked up the date of the goose, and find that I killed it Oct. 18, 1889. It was feeding in a fresh-water pond near here. My dog started it out of the water and it flew over my head and I killed it."

**Olor columbianus.** A Whistling Swan was killed at Flatlands, a village within the boundaries of Greater New York, by Asher White, a farmer living there, on Dec. 24, 1901. He had the bird mounted and I recently examined the specimen at his house on Mill Lane. I was informed that the bird had been killed on Flat Creek, one of the tide-water channels emptying into that portion of Jamaica Bay known locally as Flatlands Bay. The father and grandfather of the White who shot the swan, and who also lived here, on occasion 'gunned' for the market, but

never met this species. On the day on which he made this capture he had gone to this creek for water-fowl, where tall grass formed a natural blind. The swan was first seen in flight and took to the water not far off, but out of gun-range. After long waiting, however, it swam within range when the farmer killed it by a heavy charge of shot, with which he was fortunate enough to break the neck of the immense bird.

**Accipiter atricapillus.** Mr. Byram of Sag Harbor has in his collection of birds a fine adult Goshawk. It was killed at Amagansett March 21, 1899, and mounted by him. He states in regard to this species: "I also had another to stuff, March 1, 1899, which was caught in a trap on Gardiner's Island."

**Cathartes aura.** Mr. Robt. L. Peavey, of this city, secured a specimen of the Turkey Vulture at Rockaway Beach, June 21, 1902. A former specimen secured by him at the same place, three years previously, I have recorded in this journal (*Auk*, XVII, 1900, p. 70).

**Helminthophila lawrencei.** At Cold Spring Harbor, Long Island, May 8, 1902, a specimen of Lawrence's Warbler was secured. Nothing except its peculiar coloring was noted as distinguishing it from numbers of other warblers feeding in the same trees with it. The specimen is a male, and seems perfectly typical. This is the first recorded instance of its occurrence on Long Island.

**Mimus polyglottos.** A Mockingbird, in immature (breast-spotted) plumage was killed on Rockaway Beach Sept. 14, 1902, and kindly presented to the writer by Mr. Robt. L. Peavey of Brooklyn. Another was reported killed here two weeks previously.